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July 23, 1989

James C. MacPherson
Dean, Osgoode Hall Law School
York University
4700 Keele Street
North York Ontario
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Dear Dean MacPherson:

Re: Honorary Degree for Dr. Nelson Mandela

I apologize in advance for the tardiness of this letter, however I think its message is still relevant.

I want to express my support for the decision to award Dr. Nelson Mandela an honorary Doctor of Laws in **absentia**. He has indeed been a "beacon of hope" for activists around the world.

However, Dr. Mandela is much more than this. He is a leading member of the African National Congress. It is because of his very activities in this organization and its military wing, **Umkhonto we Sizwe**, that he has been languishing in South African prisons for almost three decades. It is on this point specifically that I have to express my total disappointment with the law school.

Even South African business people are recognizing the necessity of actual discussions with the African National Congress. Thus, it is amazing to me that there was no one officially invited from the African National Congress to accept the degree on behalf of Nelson Mandela.

Professor Maurice S. Elliott spoke very eloquently of Dr. Mandela's contributions. However at no point was his membership in the African National Congress mentioned, never mind affirmed.

I think it was a glaring omission on Professor Elliot's part. But more than this I really think that the person who should have been invited to accept the degree for Dr. Mandela was Peter Mahlangu, the African National Congress Representative in Canada.

I think a letter of apology ought to be forthcoming from Osgoode Hall Law School and York University to the African National Congress for the lack of an invitation. Perhaps a financial contribution to the ANC's children's campaign or university funding drives ought also to be considered.

I trust that this matter will be given due consideration. Thanking
you in advance, I remain

Leanne Mac Millan

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Harry Arthurs
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